

Message Text

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47

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-02

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 BIB-01 ERDE-00 /082 W
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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0884

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0090

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: EASTERN LEAK OF FEBRUARY 25 PROPOSAL

1. IN THE AD HOC GROUP MEETING MARCH 7, NATO SYG REPRESENTATIVE COHEN, POINTED OUT THAT SOVIETS HAD LEAKED CONTENT OF THEIR MODIFICATIONS OF THEIR DRAFT AGREEMENT PROPOSED IN THEIR FEBRUARY 25 INFORMAL SESSION AND REPEATED IN PLENARY SESSION MARCH 6 (TEXT OF LATTER IN MBFR VIENNA 0089). COHEN TOLD GROUP SYG'S OFFICE IN BRUSSELS WAS REQUESTING INFORMATION ON PRESS LINE WHICH AD HOC GROUP WAS USING FOR PRESS INQUIRIES.

2. AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION, THE GROUP AGREED THAT THE TALKING POINTS IT HAD APPROVED FOR THE MARCH 4 INFORMAL SESSION SHOULD BE USED AS SOURCE MATERIAL
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TO DRAW ON IN ANSWERING PRESS INQUIRIES. PERTINENT

PORTIONS OF THE TEXT OF THESE TALKING POINTS FOLLOW
BELOW.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

1. AS EASTERN REPS THEMSELVES HAVE SAID, THE EASTERN PROPOSALS MAINLY AFFECT THE PROCEDURE OF IMPLEMENTATION. IN THE ALLIED VIEW, THESE MODIFICATIONS ARE SHARPLY LIMITED IN SCOPE AND DO NOT AFFECT THE ESSENTIAL CONTENT OF THE EASTERN POSITION. THIS CONTENT REMAINS IDENTICAL WITH WHAT IT HAD BEEN FROM THE OUTSET OF THE VIENNA TALKS. IT CONSISTS OF THE CONTINUED EFFORT TO GAIN WESTERN ACCEPTANCE THAT THE GROUND FORCE DISPARITY IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE CONTRACTUALIZED IN AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

2. THE WEST HAS ALREADY REJECTED THE EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL, MAINLY FOR THIS REASON AND ALSO BECAUSE IT WAS NOT SUBSTANTIAL. TO SUGGEST INCORPORATING THIS PROPOSAL IN THE EASTERN DRAFT AGREEMENT OF NOVEMBER 1973, WHICH THE ALLIES HAVE ALSO REJECTED, DID NOT MAKE THE INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL ANY MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST.

3. THE EAST'S SUGGESTION THAT THE SECOND STAGE OF THE NOVEMBER 1973 WARSAW PACT DRAFT AGREEMENT BE IMPLEMENTED IN TWO STAGES, WITH US AND SOVIET FORCES REDUCING FIRST, DOES NOT ALTER THE FUNDAMENTAL FACT THAT THIS STAGE WAS BASED ON REDUCING THE FORCES OF ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS BY AN EQUAL PERCENTAGE. IT TOO, THEREFORE, AIMS AT CONTRACTUALIZING THE UNEQUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GROUND FORCES OF EAST AND WEST IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS.

4. ALL THREE STAGES OF THE EASTERN DRAFT AGREEMENT, BOTH IN THEIR ORIGINAL AND IN THEIR MODIFIED FORM, FAIL COMPLETELY TO DEAL WITH THE CRUCIAL PROBLEM OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, NAMELY, THE EXISTING DISPARITY IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND TANKS, WHOSE EFFECTS ARE INTENSIFIED BY THE EAST'S GEORGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES. TO
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THE CONTRARY, THE EASTERN SUGGESTION OF REDUCTION BY EQUAL NUMBERS OR EQUAL PERCENTAGES IN MANPOWER AND TANKS WOULD ONLY WORSEN THE EXISTING DISPARITIES. FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD CODIFY THIS WORSENE SITUATION IN A FORMAL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

5. THE EASTERN MODIFICATIONS DO NOT MOVE TOWARD PROVIDING AN ACCEPTABLE GOAL FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

ALLIED REPS HAVE TOLD THE EAST THAT THE ONLY GOAL THE WEST WOULD CONSIDER EQUITABLE WAS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES. INSTEAD, THE EASTERN PROPOSALS WOULD SET AN UNACCEPTABLE PATTERN OF SYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS.

6. THE EASTERN SIDE IS CONTINUING TO ADHERE TO ITS ORIGINAL POSITION THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS MUST UNDERTAKE SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS REGARDING THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL REDUCTIONS BEFORE ANY REDUCTIONS COULD TAKE PLACE. THEREFORE, THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF THE PRESENT EASTERN POSITION AS REGARDS THE QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET REMAIN EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE EAST'S ORIGINAL POSITION IN NOVEMBER 1973.

7. THESE LIMITED PROCEDURAL MODIFICATIONS DO NOT MOVE TOWARD MEETING JUSTIFIED WESTERN REQUIREMENTS THAT THE EAST AGREE TO A SUBSTANTIAL FIRST PHASE CONSISTING OF US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS AND THAT THE EAST AGREE THAT THE GOAL OF THE REDUCTION PROCESS SHOULD BE APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES. THESE REMAIN NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR SPECIFIC DECISIONS ON FORCE REDUCTIONS BY THE REMAINING WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS.

8. TO SUM UP, THE EAST'S SUGGESTIONS OF FEBRUARY 25 DO NOT INVOLVE CHANGES OF SUBSTANCE IN THE EASTERN POSITION. IN THEIR PRESENT FORM, THEY MERELY AMOUNT TO YET ANOTHER REARRANGEMENT OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE EAST'S BASIC PROPOSAL, A REARRANGEMENT WHICH DOES NOT CHANGE ITS ESSENTIAL CONTENT, A CONTENT TO WHICH THE ALLIES OBJECT FUNDAMENTALLY. IT IS ILLUSORY
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TO ACT AS THOUGH WESTERN OBJECTIONS TO THE BASIC CONTENT OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL COULD BE OVERCOME BY A SUPERFICIAL REARRANGEMENT OF ITS COMPONENTS.
END TEXT. RESOR

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